

New Beginnings

August 2014

Nick & Amy Modrzejewski

Missionaries on the campus of University of Illinois with Illini Life Christian Fellowship



Fall Kickoff!

The Work of Welcoming

What an encouraging start to the school year! We're writing you from the end of our first week of New Student Month events. One student commented to me (Amy), "Wow, you guys have a lot going on!" Our goal this first month is to provide many connection opportunities for students new to campus or simply new to Illini Life.

Nick and I have a good problem this year: we are exhausted! The reason? New students we're meeting are enjoying getting to know us as a community so much, they don't want to leave! This week, we have stayed out way past our "old people bedtime" to continue connecting with new students and helping knit them in with our current student community.

This year, we set up multiple tables around campus during move-in, Freshman orientation, and Quad Day, handing out interest surveys and freeze-pops (a big hit as the crazy heat rolled in). Not only in our Home Fellowship, but church-wide, we have experienced a flood of high interest. Nick was our database manager and all around tech guy for new student follow-up. Crunching the numbers, it appears God blessed our efforts (see the reverse).

Of the 293 students who filled out an interest survey, 44% of them indicated they were "very interested" in finding a Christian student group/church or a community where they could learn more about the Bible, Jesus, God and Christianity. Another 46% indicated they were "somewhat interested," and only 12 people told us they weren't all that interested. We praise God for getting us connected to those who are seeking. Pray for Diamond, Amanda, Camron, Katie, Ken and Kenny, students Nick and I have met.

We have seen God answer prayer in very specific ways this past week. Please pray with us that Illini Life can become a home for the many new folks we have met and will meet and that we would continue be a welcoming environment for both those looking for a church and those still far from God.

Coffee on Campus Lessons from Pittsburgh

Back in March, you heard about the Spring Break trip Nick led to Pittsburgh to assist a Collegiate church plant there and to learn how they had been reaching students on their campus. One of the events we helped with and learned from was passing out free coffee to spread the word about the church and to be a positive presence on campus.

A team here at Illini Life has been working to start this up on our campus. Our first attempt on U of I's quad went great! It was so neat to bring a smile to so many people's faces and the conversations it produced were a great chance to get to know students and spread the word about our church. It felt good to add to the positive impression of Christianity on a campus which can sometimes feel very opposed to the idea of faith.

Prayer Requests

- We're at 77% of our overall monthly support :-)
- That God would knit our Home Fellowship together as a unified group that loves and cares for one another.
- That Christians new to our group would catch the vision and come alongside us in reaching out to their non-believing peers.
- For energy for us "old folks" as we lead and disciple.
- That our church would point people toward Christ.

REACHING STUDENTS AT ILLINOIS AND BUILDING GENUINE, LOVING DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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Where We Live



Top left: The month before school started, Nick both raced at Age-Group Nationals and qualified for the Half Ironman World Championships! Proud of his hard work! Amy injured her foot and took the summer off. :) Top right: Some of the many students and staff involved in following up with new students who expressed interest in Illini Life.



Our Connect Group (left) won the Adventure Race, an annual scavenger hunt. Shown here pretending to feed Nick meat (he's a vegetarian). A couple days' vacation (right) in WI Dells refreshed us before jumping back into the school year.



Snapshots

A small look into some of the many happenings in the lives of the Modrzejewski's and Illini Life

